

**Youth Peer Support Specialist
Advocacy Services for Kids**

JOB TITLE: Youth Peer Support Specialist
TIME/HOURS: Part-time 20 hours/week
FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt
WAGE/SALARY: \$13.00/hour
SUPERVISOR: Youth Involvement Coordinator

PURPOSE: The Youth Peer Support Specialist (YPSS) will act as a support and resource for youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED) who are receiving services in the behavioral health system. The YPSS will act as a key member of the treatment team by working with youth one on one or in a group, supporting them in achieving goals through shared activities and interventions. This position will support youth empowerment by assisting in developing skills to improve their overall functioning and quality of life while working collaboratively with other service team members' involved in delivering the youth's care.

**EDUCATION AND
REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Young adult, ages 18 through 26
2. Willing and able to self-identify as a person who has or is receiving mental health services as a youth and has lived experience, and is prepared to use that experience in helping others
3. Experience receiving services as a youth in complex, child serving systems (behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, special education, foster care, etc.)
4. High School Diploma/ GED
5. Eligible and understands that they must be trained in MDHHS approved curriculum and ongoing training model
6. Able to attend required training in Lansing 8 hours per day
7. Strong communication, time management and organizational skills
8. Possess basic computer proficiency skills
9. Valid driver's license
10. Reliable transportation in order to perform job activities
11. Ability to pass various background checks/screenings

KEY ACTIVITIES:

1. Attend all required trainings to enhance skills and meet agency requirements
2. Build and foster relationships with youth and related stakeholders
3. Actively engage as part of the treatment team to meet youth needs, complete all required documentation and paperwork
4. Prepare the youth to fully participate in their own meetings and treatment planning process (including Wraparound, Treatment

- planning meetings, Individualized Educational Planning meetings, etc.)
5. Teach self-advocacy, problem solving and independent living skills
 6. Provide community education about youth culture and perspective
 7. Interrupt bias and promote a stance of acceptance while reducing stigma about mental health
 8. Empower the youth to build understanding in others about their unique mental health needs
 9. In collaboration with the youth, work with other community partners (schools, faith communities, other human services organizations, etc.) to develop natural supports to eliminate barriers to services, enhance existing community services or develop new services based on the needs of the youth
 10. Co-facilitate groups of youth focusing on goals as specified in treatment plan
 11. Provide consultation and education to individuals and groups and use problem solving techniques with the objective of assisting youth in improving or maintaining functioning
 12. Serve as a role model and active participant in supporting youth in meeting their treatment plan goals
 13. Perform other related duties as assigned by the Supervisor

**PROFICIENCY IN
THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

1. Ability to communicate and model a sense of hope and expectancy for youth with SED
2. Ability and willingness to self-disclose and share experience with others
3. Technical skill in the area of community collaborations
4. Knowledge and resources of the child serving systems and how to access useful resources in the community
5. Ability to maintain and role model strong boundaries
6. Problem solving skills
7. Competence in working as a team member within child serving systems
8. Strong commitment to the mission/values of Advocacy Services for Kids
9. Strong written and verbal communication skills
10. Computer and data processing skills
11. Data collection and storage procedures
12. HIPAA/Confidentiality requirements
13. Report generation and documentation

Fax or email resume and cover letter by 2-12-16 to:
Kaleyf@askforkids.org or Fax 269-978-0287
ATTN: Kaley Ford, Youth Involvement Coordinator
216 Balch Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001